GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2783
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Inventions by Scientists
George Shri (Adv.) Joice

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any mechanism to popularise science and technology inventions by scientists in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY)

(a) Yes, Madam. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research an autonomous organization of Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Govt. of India, has the Popular Science Division of CSIR-NISCAIR to popularize inventions by Scientists by bringing out some popular science magazines, newsletters and programmes on TV and Radio. Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt of India has several mechanisms to popularise the science and technology inventions by scientists in the country. Some of these include: National Science Congress, National Teachers Science Congress, National Children Science Congress, National awards for Science & Technology Communication and Science Express − Exhibition Train, Mobile Science Exhibitions on road. Ministry of Science & Technology popularize inventions by scientists in India by providing financial assistance for organizing Conference/ Seminar/ Symposium/ Workshop and travel support to the researchers for presenting their papers in the conferences within and outside the country.

(b) Science Express is a flagship initiative of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India for popularising science and technology amongst masses in various states of India. It is a unique mobile science exhibition mounted on a 16-coach, AC train, travelling across India since 2007. Over the last eight years, Science Express has extensively covered different areas across India, wherever broad-gauge rail tracks are available and halt is feasible. During its entire journey since its launch on 30 October 2007 till date (till 7 May 2016), in its eight phases, it has covered 1,42,000 km with 455 halts across India. Science Express has been visited by 1.56 crore people till date, making it the most visited, longest running and the largest mobile science exhibition. The science and technology inventions by scientists in the country and cutting edge research in science have been part of the Science Express exhibition in its previous phases. Science Express halts at each station for 3-4 days, during which students, teachers and general public from the nearby areas visit the exhibition and participate in various activities, which is free of cost. It has travelled to several states and UTs including - Gujarat, Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, J&K, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttrakhand, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Nagaland.

The next phase of the Science Express is being planned to start in October 2016 as 'Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS). This will be Phase IX journey for the iconic train, covering 69 stations in 23 states and UTs.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research under Department of Scientific and Industrial has the Popular Science Division of CSIR-NISCAIR (National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources) which brings out three popular science magazines -- Science Reporter (English monthly), Vigyan Pragati (Hindi monthly) and Science-ki-Duniya (Urdu quarterly). The three magazines give coverage to inventions by Indian scientists. It also brings out two R&D Newsletter --CSIR News (English) and CSIR Samachar (Hindi). The newsletters publish on a regular basis news and information pertaining to inventions and research accomplishments of CSIR scientists. A weekly programme "Eureka" on the contribution of Indian Scientists is produced by CSIR-NISCAIR in collaboration with Rajya Sabha TV and Vigyan Prasar wherein interviews of eminent scientists and researchers are conducted to discuss their S&T inventions and accomplishments. A publication based on the contribution of eminent scientist titled "Moments of Eureka: Life and work of selected Indian Scientists" was brought out by CSIR-NISCAIR in collaboration with RSTV and Vigyan Prasar in 2016. Constituent laboratories of CSIR also organize interactions of Lab scientists with general public including school students on occasions such as CSIR Foundation Day, Technology Day, Lab Foundation Day, etc. wherein information on S&T inventions by the Lab scientists is disseminated.

Ministry of Science and Technology popularize invention of scientists in India by providing financial assistance for organizing Conference/ Seminar/ Symposia, Workshop and travel support to the researchers for presenting their papers in the conferences which are being organised within and outside the country. It also extends support for organising DBT stalls in Exhibitions held within the country as well as outside the country. Financial supports are also provided for organising Popular Lectures. The collective term for these four activities is CTEP (Conference, Travel, Exhibition and Popular Lectures

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